

# WHAT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IS DOING

## BEATING SWORDS INTO FLOW SHARES

Uncle Sam now will use the raw stuff that was to blow Germany off the map for fertilized. Instead of making explosive shells out of it he is putting it on the land to raise food and cotton. Over 15,000 tons of nitrate of soda, released by the War department is speeding from 15 United States shipping points to farmers via the bureau of markets, Department of Agriculture. In view of the number of orders for early shipment being received the nitrate distributors say that spring must be on the way. Farmers who did not want to accept deliveries in February now want immediate shipments and the bureau of markets is trying to ship 100,000 tons this month.

Orders have already been issued from Washington for the shipment of over 75,000 tons in small lots, and Savannah and Wilmington report daily shipments of over 1,000 tons each. Announcement that all applications for nitrate will be filled for the full amount was made today, but it was pointed out that applicants should appreciate the impossibility of filling all orders simultaneously though every effort is being made to have the nitrate reach all applicants in time for use this season.

## BOYS' SWAT DOGS, BUY SHEEP

For every dog kept at a loss of \$36.50 must be pocketed every year. For every sheep kept a profit of \$27.60 may be pocketed every year.

At least that is the way the proposition was itemized on the blackboard of a mountain schoolhouse by a farm demonstration agent in Kentucky. And the figures were convincing. There was not a sheep in the district at the time the figure were placed on the blackboard. Somebody said there used to be one sheep—a wether—"down by the mountain a ways," but the dogs ate him.

A few weeks from the time the agent placed the figures on the board 15 boys each had contrived to buy a sheep. Eleven dogs had been killed. Several other families pestered by their small sons, but still unwilling to kill their dogs, were trying to give the brutes away.

Similar movements were started at other schools. Now, in that district there are 622 boys who are members of the sheep club. Among them they own nearly 2,665 sheep. By the tax returns the dog population appears to have increased also, but the agent says this is not true. Formerly there was no sentiment for enforcement of the dog law, he says, but now there is a very strong sentiment that way, and, while there has been a considerable decrease in the number of dogs, there is an apparent increase, because people who formerly evaded the dog tax now have to pay it.

## FEW PINK BOLLWORMS ARE FOUND

Pink bollworms work in the Pecos valley of Texas is being pushed by the United States Department of Agriculture. The War Department is cooperating by lending considerable equipment for housing labor, enabling the federal horticultural board to add 300 laborers to the force.

Infestation in the Pecos valley is limited to points near the two adjacent towns of Barstow and Pecos. Seven points of pink bollworm attack have been determined. The total number of larvae found up to February 9 was 14, all dead except 1. The clean up work will be extended over a considerable area beyond the infested points in order to remove any possible chance of perpetuation of the insect.

of the insect.

The isolation of the Pecos valley district and the fact that the cotton in it is grown entirely under irrigation make it possible to pursue clean up operations with great efficiency. The further fact that the insect seems to have been largely killed by the freezes or early winter gives this district a different outlook from that of the infested regions in eastern Texas. Plans are being made to allow the growth of cotton next season in this district under such supervision and control as will permit the prompt safeguarding of any new outbreak of the insect. Conditions give hope that the insect in this region will be thoroughly exterminated soon.

## "DIP THAT TICK NOW"

"Dip that tick in March," the slogan that has been followed vigorously during March by the state and federal fighters of the cattle fever tick will become out of date April 1. A new slogan will take its place. It is "Dip that tick now." Posters bearing the injunction are already up in many tick infested sections. "Dipping now" means dipping with the least possible delay. The sooner a steer is put through the dipping vat the sooner he will be free of the parasites that cause a direct annual loss of \$40,000,000 and an indirect loss figured at twice as much by officials of the Bureau of Animal Industry. United States Department of Agriculture. And the sooner every head of cattle in an infested section becomes tick free and ready for release from the federal quarantine restricting the movement of cattle.

## MORE FEED FROM SPUR FETERITA

A new variety of feterita, developed by the Texas Experiment Station and tested by the United States Department of Agriculture excels the common varieties of this crop in the field, leafiness, strength of stalk, and of all around adaptability for southern culture. Sugar feterita is less likely to lodge or fall down than the common varieties. It carries one third more leaves which are longer and broader than the common ones. On experimental plots in Texas in 1916, it produced 8 bushels and in 1917 10 bushels more per acre than common feterita. The crop is planted in 36-inch to 42-inch rows, 5 to 7 pounds of seed being required per acre for planting. For forage, spur feterita is at least equal to milo, although it is perhaps excelled by the kafirs and sweet sorghums. For work horses, stock cattle or fattening sheep, the crop can be fed directly from the bundle. It is about equal to the sorghums for use as silage. Farmers who grow this selected variety should exercise the greatest care in protecting the seed from contamination, in order to provide a future, pure seed supply which will permit of its extension in the grain sorghum area of the United States. The Department of Agriculture has no seed of the new feterita for distribution as arrangements already have been made for distributing all of the seed that is available.

## STRIVING FOR THE "EARLY BIRDS"

The early bird—referring to poultry—not only gets the worm, but seems to have every other advantage over the one that comes late. Upon early hatching largely depends the success of poultry keeping, say specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture, who are now conducting a "Hatch early" campaign—one of the most important in the poultry program. Early hatched stock, they say, produce well-mater-

ed, vigorous pullets, which will begin laying in the fall and early winter, use of the machine. It costs about 20 cents to make a broom. When ing pullets that the best production a girl has learned to make a perfect product she is allowed to use the label "Home Demonstration Club Broom," on any she wishes to sell. Many of the club girls plan to pay college or normal school expenses with the proceeds from their broom work.

## WORKING FOR BETTER POULTRY

Quality as well as quantity, is the object of the poultry drive now being conducted by poultry specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. Special emphasis was placed last year on increasing production. This being accomplished, the poultry specialists, working in cooperation with the state extension forces, now urge replacement of mongrel stock with standard bred stock to improve both production and quality. The campaign really began last fall when decided interest in improved stock was shown by a number of undesirable birds, culled from flocks in all parts of the country. The culling work done in Mississippi is illustrative of what has been done in many localities. The poultry specialist worked in nine counties and secured the culling of 1,349 flocks, from which 10,792 birds, weighing 25,909 pounds were discarded as unprofitable producers. As can be seen from the extremely small average weight of the birds culled—2.4 pounds—the poultry stick in this section needed the culling. The eggs were small and inferior and did not have a good

## MAKING BROOMS AT HOME

Well made brooms command good prices and in the southern states where broom corn grows well and the home demonstration agents, under the supervision of the United States Department of Agriculture and the state colleges are encouraging the growing of broom corn and the making of brooms. Alabama produces excellent broom corn and the number of club girls in that state who are interested in this work is increasing. Broom machines by which 25 to 30 brooms can be turned out in a day, are being bought in some of the communities where the work is well started. These are rented to the club members

standing on the New Orleans market. As the culling campaign progressed, the poultry specialists urged the keeping of improved stock. Enough progress along this line has already been made to give Mississippi eggs a better reputation on the New Orleans market.

## MORE SILOS FOR UTAH

Seven years ago there were only four silos in Utah, while last summer the silo census showed over 400 of such feeding conveniences on Utah dairy farms. Representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture, working with state and local forces, hope to increase the total number of silos to 1,000 during the year 1919. As practically all these structures for the housing of canned corn are located on dairy farms, it is apparent that Utah, as a milk farmer's state, is beginning to find herself.

## FOR AMERICAN BINDER WIRE

American farmers use 200,000,000 pounds of binder twine a year, while an additional 100,000,000 pounds is necessary for the other grain growing countries. Eighty per cent of the henequen used in the manufacture of twine comes from Yucatan and most of the sisal used in making twine also comes from foreign countries. For the protection of American farming interests the United States Department of Agriculture is promoting the growing of sisal and henequen in the Philippine Islands, Hawaiian Islands, Porto Rico, Florida in order that Uncle Sam's future

supply of binder twine may be a "Made in America" product.

## Get Your Digestion in Shape

Many ailments are caused by stomach weakness. Faulty digestion leads to biliousness, sick headache, dizziness, sallow skin and eruptions. Maintain a healthy condition of the stomach and you will get rid of the chief cause of your sufferings. Do not neglect the laws of health. Keep stomach, liver and bowels in order by timely use of

# BEECHAM'S PILLS

Largest Sale of Any Medicine in the World. Sold everywhere. In boxes, 10c., 25c.

First Use of Toilet Vinegar. Perhaps the ladies who use toilet vinegar would like to know its origin? The story runs like this: During the great plague that visited Marseilles, four highwaymen who had formed a gang, invented an aromatic vinegar by means of which they could rob the dead and dying without any fear of infection. This vinegar was for a long time known in France under the name of "Vinaigre de quatre voleurs," and eventually became toilet vinegar.

# Waist - Seam Styles The Leading Design for Young Men

Young men who follow the advance style trend will wear one of the many smart waist-seam models we show for Spring. They bear the label of America's foremost creators of young men's clothes—

## THE HOUSE OF Kuppenheimer

Assuring not only exclusive, advance style, but quality expressed in better values at every price.

You can pick your waist-seam style from several pleasing variations: single and double-breasted models, welt-seam backs, some have patch pockets, others have crescent piped pockets, your choice of either soft-rolling peak or notch lapels. In some the waist seam is wide, in others narrow. Every one is a winner.

\$35 \$40 \$45 \$50

# Howell Brothers

"Logan's Foremost Clothers"